United Nations A/55/786

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2001
English
Original: French

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 48
The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the recent dialogue initiative proposed by Haitian civil society issued on 6 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the recent dialogue initiative proposed by Haitian civil society issued on 6 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union takes note of the initiative of 18 January 2001 launched by major organizations of Haitian civil society with a view to resolving the political and constitutional crisis currently affecting the country.

It has been suggested to the political parties of Haiti by major segments of civil society that it is vital to resume a dialogue in order to overcome the obstacles to the achievement of political stability and democratic pluralism in the country. The initiative proposes the establishment of a negotiating Commission which would include representatives of civil society and of political parties.

The European Union warmly welcomes and expresses its support and strong interest in the proposed political initiative. The appeal and the proposals made for the establishment of a dialogue are a full response to the wish of the European Union to foster positive political developments in Haiti following the presidential and senatorial elections held in November last year.

In this context, the European Union would like to declare its readiness to assist in the framework of a dialogue between the President, Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, his party, Fanmi Lavalas, and the opposition in the Democratic Convergence, along the lines of efforts already undertaken by the Organization of American States. It is of utmost importance that all parties react favourably to the initiative and show evidence of the openness and reconciliation which Haitian society expects of the political class. Meanwhile, all sides are urged to refrain from violence.

The European Union is deeply concerned by the persistence of the political crisis in Haiti and regrets that no significant progress has been noted since the elections held on 26 November 2000. Only the resumption of a dialogue among all sections of Haitian society will enable the crisis to be swiftly resolved, which is indispensable for the future political and economic development of the country.